

# WMNJ's 100 Watt Update

by Scott Wands

**A**CCORDING to WMNJ General Manager Steve Rogers, the appointment of a new FCC branch manager to this area has added steam to WMNJ's fight to move from 10 to 100 watt status.

Originally filing for such status in December 1983, WMNJ's action has since been blocked by Newark-based jazz station WBGO, which, in May 1984, lodged a formal complaint with the FCC regarding WMNJ's application.

WBGO (88.3), a 7000 watt station, claimed that WMNJ's 100 watt broadcasting (at 88.9) would interfere with the many WBGO listeners living within 1000 feet of WMNJ's antenna. Measurements by Rogers and Technical Director Mike Shavel disclosed that only six homes exist in this area.

On May 31, 1984, Shavel filed a letter on behalf of WMNJ with the FCC demanding a compensatory hearing if the station's application was denied. The FCC then suggested that the two stations reach a compromise agreement.

Last October, WMNJ hired a lawyer and sent a notice to the FCC requiring WBGO (upon FCC notification) to reach an agreement within thirty days or lose their license.

Since then, the new FCC branch manager has deemed WBGO's claim against WMNJ invalid and has honored WMNJ's claim to a compensatory hearing, an expensive process which, Rogers said, both stations would prefer to avoid.

The management of WMNJ is currently awaiting notification by the FCC to WBGO, after which the Newark station will have thirty days to reach an agreement with WMNJ.

Calling WBGO's maneuvers "petty," Rogers said he anticipates action by the FCC before the end of this academic year. Assuming this, he said, agreement should be reached by late June at the latest.

WMNJ's renovations will include the construction of a 100' tower next to Tolley dormitory, and an increase in wattage output from 10 to 100 watts. This increase should widen WMNJ's broadcasting range to over 25 miles, making it a "major medium in radio for the Morris area," according to Rogers.

The management of WMNJ expects to begin construction of the tower with FCC clearance by September 1 of this year.